

WHITEHALL LANE

2019

LEONARDINI ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY



WINEMAKER: JASON MOULTON

APPELLATION: NAPA VALLEY

COMPOSITION: 78% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,
7% MERLOT, 6% MALBEC, 5% PETIT VERDOT,
4% CABERNET FRANC

ALCOHOL: 14.8%

THE VINTAGE

The 2019 vintage was a long, ideal growing season for our Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Bud break began in late March to early April, leading to a Spring that was mild and dry. Flowering proved to be long and gave way to a healthy set of uniform grape clusters. Summer was also quite warm and long, leading to a cooling effect near the end of the season and into Fall. Throughout the vineyard growing season, there were no heat spikes and the temperatures were steady and even-keel. The consistent summer weather encouraged our grapes to ripen in mid-September to late October when they were in perfect balance. The fruit is from our Estate vineyards in Rutherford, St. Helena, and the Oak Knoll District appellations.

WINEMAKING

Upon hand harvesting in the early morning hours, our grapes were carefully destemmed and sent to tank for a whole-berry fermentation. The grapes were cold-soaked in tank at 45°F for 4-7 days, allowing for increased color, aroma, and flavor extraction. After inoculation, the grape must (juice, skins, and seeds) fermented at 82°F, which allowed for a hot extraction on the skins. For fermentation cap management, we pumped juice over the skins two times per day, wetting the cap evenly for a nice healthy fermentation. After fermentation and pressing, the wine was sent to 70% new French oak, 30% neutral French oak barrels, aging for 26 months. The final blend for the Leonardini Estate is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 6%, Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot, and 4% Cabernet Franc. At bottling, this wine was unfinned and unfiltered.

NOTES

This 2019 Leonardini Estate wine is a quintessential Cabernet Sauvignon Bordeaux blend! This is the first time we have used all five Bordeaux varieties to make the final blend of the Leonardini Estate. It begins on the nose with black cherry cola, red currants, caramel, licorice, black peppercorn, and a hint of lavender. Its balance and mid-palate are most notable, providing long, plush tannins alongside its dense fruit character. On the palate, it delivers soft red raspberries, redolent cherries, brown sugar, cherry cobbler crisp, vanilla bean, and nutmeg. The beautiful underlying tannin structure, complexity, and ample fruit will evolve over time and age gracefully for 15-20 years.

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